



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Parris N. Glendening, Governor - Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Secretary

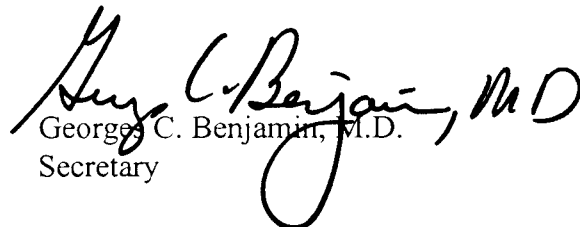
Dear Public Health Advocate:

Enclosed is Maryland's first Health Improvement Plan, *Public Health Action for the First Decade 2000-2010*, a product of Healthy Maryland Project 2010. In Maryland, we are fortunate to have a rich commitment from communities across the State to improve the health status of our residents. Maryland has a long and successful history of state and local partnerships in public health, as well as a solid infrastructure of state and local health departments to provide leadership. This document is a demonstration of that commitment, history, and leadership.

The national Healthy People initiative is a road map to better health for all. Maryland has used the Healthy People process to broaden our collaborations and work in concert toward our common goals at the national, state, and local level, and also to eliminate health disparities and increase years of healthy life. This Health Improvement Plan is our guide to obtaining these goals. It is the product of an impressive strategic planning process.

Healthy Maryland Project 2010 will continue to promote the use of scientific information to assist policy and decision-making. I invite you to join me in supporting the efforts of this important Project. I extend a special thanks to all the contributors.

Sincerely,

  
Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.  
Secretary